

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Children's Bureau
Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS)

www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb
rev. June 2006

Children in the Public Foster Care System Waiting to be Adopted
Fiscal Years 1999-2004

	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Alabama	1,013	1,162	1,288	1,525	1,608	1,602
Alaska	639	688	701	621	639	663
Arizona	3,014	2,340	2,507	1,650	1,701	2,140
Arkansas	847	817	808	982	987	964
California	9,448	12,004	7,682	6,335	5,472	4,903
Colorado	1,665	1,776	1,445	1,886	1,496	1,573
Connecticut	NA	NA	NA	1,036	1,319	1,408
Delaware	271	334	319	210	144	221
Dist of Col	NA	1,086	1,148	1,178	1,130	790
Florida	4,610	5,395	7,696	8,115	8,180	7,729
Georgia	2,696	2,860	4,185	3,200	2,524	2,550
Hawaii	616	693	731	709	767	919
Idaho	83	185	229	258	255	311
Illinois	14,676	10,727	8,963	6,225	3,821	3,621
Indiana	2,631	1,959	2,392	2,364	2,417	2,593
Iowa	1,039	1,016	1,119	1,277	1,143	1,151
Kansas	1,756	1,908	2,056	2,076	1,993	1,976
Kentucky	1,739	2,013	1,928	1,932	2,039	1,974
Louisiana	1,477	1,541	1,439	1,471	1,315	1,187
Maine	1,095	1,096	1,003	979	760	793
Maryland	2,803	3,073	3,299	2,998	2,589	2,338
Massachusetts	3,270	3,145	2,910	3,109	3,069	3,036
Michigan	8,494	7,742	7,815	6,862	7,136	6,766
Minnesota	2,047	1,774	1,661	1,609	1,575	1,475
Mississippi	581	520	510	816	824	936
Missouri	3,137	3,130	3,015	2,870	3,385	3,295
Montana	774	850	748	687	656	726
Nebraska	432	483	348	621	796	914
Nevada	NA	67	593	534	1,070	1,153
New Hampshire	153	207	198	193	177	241
New Jersey	4,251	4,852	5,174	5,073	5,466	5,156
New Mexico	876	822	668	514	584	635
New York	16,138	15,833	14,635	13,926	12,742	11,077
North Carolina	3,595	3,709	3,329	3,130	3,101	3,097
North Dakota	311	322	322	321	320	283
Ohio	3,473	4,438	5,914	5,731	5,198	4,974
Oklahoma	1,832	1,766	2,390	2,435	2,575	3,109
Oregon	3,000	3,150	2,680	2,511	2,606	2,599
Pennsylvania	4,881	5,203	5,240	4,231	4,083	4,051

Rhode Island	333	388	403	387	310	317
South Carolina	2,199	2,201	2,157	1,961	1,500	1,688
South Dakota	276	297	404	439	458	450
Tennessee	1,660	2,032	2,287	2,346	1,975	1,783
Texas	6,592	7,190	7,887	8,441	8,626	10,147
Utah	325	350	333	450	448	450
Vermont	360	397	303	427	374	273
Virginia	2,178	2,132	1,946	1,489	1,572	1,611
Washington	3,285	2,512	2,258	2,648	2,403	2,328
West Virginia	775	762	729	1,000	1,038	1,013
Wisconsin	1,012	1,038	1,640	1,676	1,761	1,342
Wyoming	100	92	104	102	91	71
Puerto Rico	522	NA	384	1,454	1,458	1,607
TOTAL	128,980	130,077	129,923	125,020	119,676	118,009

NOTE: There is no federal definition for a child waiting to be adopted. For analytical purposes, the definition used in the table above includes children who have a goal of adoption and/or whose parental rights have been terminated. It excludes children 16 years old and older, whose parental rights have been terminated and who have a goal of emancipation. The number of children waiting to be adopted reported by individual States will likely differ somewhat from those in this table because State definitions vary according to State policies and practices.

Furthermore, some numbers in this table may be lower than the numbers reported in a previous version of this table. Children were included in a previous table who only met the criteria of having had their parental rights terminated could have had them terminated at any time. Only those children with terminations prior to the end of the fiscal year of interest are included in the current table. This provides a more accurate picture of the size and nature of the “waiting” population at the end of each fiscal year.

In contrast to the previous version of this table, FY 1998 data are not included because of the extensive amount of missing data for that year. However, as in the previous version of the table, jurisdictions with insufficient data (“NA”) are not included in the totals. Therefore, the totals in this table may differ from those reported elsewhere which include estimates for missing data.